18.(amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said resource includes content which is divisible into genres and wherein the hyperlink contains information regarding to which of the genres the hyperlink is to be resolved.

25. (amended) A computer-readable medium for use in a computer system and holding computer-executable instructions for performing a method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a resource, said request originating from a user selecting a hyperlink and said request being redirected to the computer system by an intermediary, said intermediary being selected based on user-supplied information and resolving the hyperlink based at least in part using said user-supplied information;

translating the request into a format that is acceptable to the computer system; and

servicing the request as translated by returning a resource to the user.

REMARKS

The following comments address all stated grounds for rejection, and we believe place the presently pending claims, as identified above, in condition for allowance. Upon entry of this paper, claims 4, 18 and 25 have been amended, no claims have been canceled, and no claims have been added as new claims, thus claims 1-34 are presently pending in this application. No new matter has been added.

One embodiment of the present invention provides a controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink that is a variety of hyperlink that is directed to a redirection facility when selected. The hyperlink redirection facility is a redirection facility for directing the controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink in a modified format to a service provider. The hyperlink redirection facility makes a determination of which service provider to use to service the request associated with the controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink by examining user preferences, if any. The controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink is then passed onto a service provider, which translates the request into an appropriate format for the selected service provider that has been identified by the hyperlink redirection facility. The service provider processes the request and returns results to the user.

Objections

Objection to Drawings

Formal drawings have been prepared and are submitted herewith. The missing reference to step 46 in figure 2 has been added to the specification. A replacement page 7 is included. The correction of figure 5 to replace the number 18 with the number 14 has also been made. The correction is consistent with the specification.

Rejections

Rejection of claims 4 and 18 based on §112

The Examiner rejected claims 4 and 18 for including limitations with insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 4 and 18 have been amended and now contain sufficient antecedent basis for the noted limitations.

Rejection of claims 25 and 26 based on §102(e) as being anticipated by De La Huerga et al

The Examiner rejected claims 25 and 26 pursuant to 35. U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by De La Huerga et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,895,461). The Applicants have amended claim 25 (upon which claim 26 is dependent) to indicate that the intermediary is selected based on user-supplied information and that the intermediary resolves the hyperlink based at least in part by using the user-supplied information. For the reasons set forth below, and in light of the amendment to claim 25, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

De La Huerga et al discloses a word processing system that recognizes keywords and associates the keywords with records in databases. The data records are stored automatically at predetermined unique addresses according to keywords entered into the data record by a user. References to other data records results in the creation of hypertext links to those other data records. De La Huerga et al does not teach or disclose the use of an intermediary performing re-direction, but rather teaches the use of a user interface (the specialized word processor) in data retrieval.

In contrast to De La Huerga et al, the claimed invention employs a user interface (the web browser) which recognizes user input (a click) and makes a request of the intermediary. The intermediary does not need to retrieve anything. The purpose of the intermediary is to redirect the user's browser to one of multiple possible destination systems. De La Huerga et al teaches a system that directly queries a (plurality of) database(s) and returns the results to the requester, while the claimed invention redirects queries to other systems. There is no intermediary in De La Huerga. Since De La Huerga et al lacks the intermediary limitation of the claimed invention, and particularly lacks an intermediary selected based on user-supplied information which resolves the hyperlink using at least part of the user-supplied information, withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection of claims 25 and 26 based on De La Huerga is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1-5, 8-16 and 18-24 based on §103(a) as being unpatentable over De La Huerga et al in view of Minor et al

The examiner indicated that claims 1-5, 8-16 and 18-24 were rejected based on §103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over De La Huerga et al in view of Minor et al (U.S. Patent No. 5, 740, 252). For the reasons set forth below, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Minor et al teaches and discloses a system for authenticating a user using demographic information associated with the user. The system performs a lookup function where demographic data is combined with a destination address and then encoded using an encryption key appropriate to the destination address. The encoded destination address/demographic data combination is returned to the user which then contacts the destination device directly with the encoded request. The system is designed to pass demographic information between computers. There is no redirection function performed by the system and no redirection facility.

Claim 1 (and claims 2-5 and 8 which are dependent thereon) requires the environment to have a redirection facility which is used to service a user request.

Claim 9 (and claims 10 – 16 and 18 which are dependent thereon) requires the receipt of user information regarding a user and link information regarding a hyperlink to be resolved to a resource in response to the user selecting the hyperlink and a limitation requiring the identifying of a resolution service to resolve the hyperlink based on user information. Claim 19 (and claims 20 and 21 which are dependent thereon) requires the use of a redirection server. Claim 22 (and claims 23 and 24 which are dependent thereon) requires the receipt of user information regarding a user and link information regarding a hyperlink to be resolved to a resource in response to the user selecting the hyperlink (a process performed by the redirection server).

All of the cited claims noted by the examiner require either the use of a redirection facility or server explicitly (independent claims 1 and 19), or limitations resolving and redirecting a hyperlink request to a resolution service (independent claims 9 and 22). As noted above, the word processor of De La Huerga et al is not a redirection facility or server and does not perform redirection to a resource but rather is a user interface performing a database retrieval. Minor does not teach the forwarding of some of the link information to the identified resolution service for resolution of the hyperlink, but rather encodes demographic data with a destination address using an encryption key appropriate for the destination and **returns the encrypted information to the requesting user.** The user then forwards the encrypted information to the destination. There is no redirection being performed by the intermediary. Since the system of De La Huerga et al and the system of Minor et al both lack limitations and elements found in the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections directed to claims 1-5, 8-16 and 18-24.

Rejection of claims 6 and 17 based on §103(a) as being unpatentable over De La Huerga et al in view of Minor et al in further view of Fleugge

The Examiner indicated that claims 6 and 17 were rejected based on §103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over De La Huerga et al in view of Minor et al in further view of Fleugge (U.S. Patent No. 5, 745, 372). For the reasons set forth below, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 6 is dependent upon independent claim 1 and accordingly requires a redirection facility as well as the limitation of "identifying the service provider that failed to fully service the request the redirection facility before the direction of the request to the second service provider." Claim 17 is dependent upon independent claim 8 and requires the limitation of "identifying a resolution service to employ to resolve the hyperlink based on the user information" (performed with the redirection facility) as well as the limitation of "identifying the resolution service that failed to return content to the user before the forwarding step." Fleugge teaches and discloses a method for routing signals in a field programmable gate array integrated circuit. While Fleugge does refer to the term "hyperlink", the term is used in a completely different manner than used in the claimed invention. Fleugge uses the term hyperlink to refer to a wire, a bit of metal, that jumps over a patterning layer in a field programmable gate array. The term is not relevant to the claimed invention. Since the Examiner relies on Fleugge to supply the limitation of "identifying the service provider that failed to fully service the request", and Fleugge not only lacks the limitation but does not involve the same art as the claimed invention, it would not be obvious to combine Fleugge with Minor et al and De La Huerga et al to supply the missing limitation. Additionally, as noted above, both Minor et al and De La Huerga et al are missing the redirection facility needed for the independent claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections directed to claims 6 and 17 based on over De La Huerga et al in view of Minor et al in further view of Fleugge.

Rejection of claim 7 based on §103(a) as being unpatentable over De La Huerga et al in view of Minor et al in further view of Bowen

The Examiner indicated that claim 7 was rejected based on §103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over De La Huerga et al in view of Minor et al in further view of Bowen et al (U.S. Patent No. 6, 094, 649). For the reasons set forth below, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 7 is dependent upon claim 1 and adds the limitation that the redirection facility run on a device supporting the TCP/IP protocol suite. As previously noted,

neither De La Huerga et al nor Minor et al provide a redirection facility or a redirection function. Bowen et al teaches a dedicated device that practices the TCP/IP protocol suite. Bowen et al does not teach a redirection facility. Since all of the references lack a redirection facility, it would not be obvious to combine the references to teach a redirection facility employing the TCP/IP protocol suite as claimed in claim 7. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection directed to claim 7.

Rejection of claims 27-34 based on §103(a) as being unpatentable over De La Huerga et al view of Gerace

The Examiner indicated that claims 27-34 were rejected based on §103(a) as being unpatentable for obviousness over De La Huerga et al in view of Gerace (U.S. Patent No. 5, 991, 735). For the reasons set forth below, the rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 27 (and claims 28-34 which are dependent thereon) require the use of a redirection facility for redirecting a request for a given resource to a service provider as part of an advertisement. Gerace teaches a method of determining a behavioral profile of a computer user. A data assembly for providing agate information to a computer user is provided along with a tracking and profiling member for recording user activity with respect to agate information displayed through the data assembly. Agate information is time-sensitive, reference information which is not read linearly. A psychographic profile is inferred from the recorded activities in the tracking and profiling member. Gerace does not teach or disclose a redirection facility. The Examiner indicated that it would obvious to combine the redirection server of De La Huerga et al (as suggested by the Examiner) to implement customized advertising methods with the redirection facility. However, as previously noted, De La Huerga does not teach a redirection facility but rather data retrieval. Claims 28 and 34 are all dependent upon claim 27 which includes a redirection facility as an element in the claim. Since the combination of De La Huerga et al and Gerace does not include a redirection facility, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections directed to claim 27-34.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants contend that claims 1-34 presently pending in the application are patentable and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request the allowance of the application. We invite the Examiner to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400 if the Examiner deems there are any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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"VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE"

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 4, 18 and 25 as follows.

4.(amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the redirection ~~server~~ facility has access to a database holding data regarding preferences of users and wherein the step of identifying the user preference further comprises accessing the database to access the data.

18.(amended) The method of claim 9, wherein said resource includes content which is divisible into genres and wherein the hyperlink contains information regarding to which of the genres the hyperlink is to be resolved.

25. (amended) A computer-readable medium for use in a computer system and holding computer-executable instructions for performing a method, comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a resource, said request originating from a user selecting a hyperlink and said request being redirected to the computer system by an intermediary, said intermediary being selected based on user-supplied information and resolving the hyperlink based at least in part using said user-supplied information;

translating the request into a format that is acceptable to the computer system; and

servicing the request as translated by returning a resource to the user.

the controlled vocabulary that is employed in the illustrative embodiment, it is helpful to consider an example. Suppose that an Internet publisher imbeds a controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14 which specifies a search for information related to an author names "Wendy Jones." The controlled vocabulary uses the "Genre," "author," and person name "Wendy Jones." The URL contained within the controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14 points to a hyperlink redirection facility. The controlled vocabulary are meta data is used by the hyperlink redirection facility as will be described in more detail below.

The information service publisher 10 may, for example, place the document 12 on a web server that is accessible to a user 16 that runs a web browser. The user web browser displays the document 12 on a display device, such as a video display (step 42 I Figure 2). The user 16 then selects the controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14 (step 44 in Figure 2). As mentioned above, the user 16 may select the controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14 by positioning a mouse cursor to point at the link within the then document 12 and then clicking a mouse button. Those skilled in the art will appreciate that there may be other mechanisms for selecting the controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14.

A controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14 is then passed to the hyperlink redirection facility 22 (step 46). This differs from conventional systems in that when a hyperlink is selected in a conventional system, an HTTP request is sent to the designated URL for resolution. The controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14 contains meta data and a URL that points to the hyperlink redirection facility 22. Figure 3 depicts an example hypertext markup language (HTML) document that contains a controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14. The document 12 contains the typical tags found in an HTML document, including a <HTML> tag pair, a <head> tag pair, a <title> tag pair and a <body> tag pair. The controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14 is specified as shown on lines 60 and 62 as a hyperlink that contains a URL for the hyperlink redirection facility 22. For the example depicted in Figure 3, it is presumed that the controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink is for a portion of hypertext that identifies a stock ticker symbol "RHAT".

One or more cookies 20 are sent from the user web browser (see 16 in Figure 1) to the hyperlink redirection facility 22 (step 48 in Figure 2). The cookies are data structures that hold context information. In the present context, the term "cookie" refers to a structure as defined in the cookie specification developed by the HTTP working

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the controlled vocabulary that is employed in the illustrative embodiment, it is helpful to consider an example. Suppose that an Internet publisher imbeds a controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14 which specifies a search for information related to an author names "Wendy Jones." The controlled vocabulary uses the "Genre," "author," and person name "Wendy Jones." The URL contained within the controlled vocabulary abstract hyperlink 14 points to a hyperlink redirection facility. The controlled vocabulary are meta data is used by the hyperlink redirection facility as will be described in more detail below.

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